

Los Altos Hills Pathway Committee - July 30th, 2018

Final Minutes

Call to Order

1. Roll Call
 1. Alisa Bredo (AB)
 2. Nick Dunckel (ND)
 3. Ann Duwe (AD)
 4. Melissa Dyrdaahl (MD)
 5. Bob Elson (BE)
 6. Bridget Morgan (BM)
 7. Val Metcalfe (VM)
 8. Rachelle Mirkin (RM)
 9. Judy Nagy (JN)
 10. Sonja Wilkerson (SW)
2. Associate Members
 1. Eileen Gibbons (EG)
 2. Susan Cretekos (SC)
3. Town Council
 1. Roger Spreen
4. Staff
 1. Jeremy Koch
 2. Dylan Parker - New Assistant planner (replacement for Marnie) He will be handling the GIS System.
5. Members of the Public
 1. Jay Sutaria - 13581 Wildcrest Dr
 2. Brook and Cindy Eaton - 12791 W. Sunset
 3. Anne DeGheest - 12133 Foothill Lane
 4. Vaz Babayan - 12940 Atherton Ct.
 5. Howard Lee - 12933 Atherton Ct.
 6. Gene and Yuki Kita - 13303 Wildcrest Dr.
 7. Kjell Karlsson

Agenda Review - PWC chair moved items 7b and 7c due to the number of members of the public in attendance after Town updates and before item 6 presentations from the floor.

Ex Parte Communications - None

Town Staff Updates:

Jeremy -

Alan Chan is no longer a town staff member.

27447 Edgerton Rd - A request for clarification about the 20ft easement request was discussed. The tail of the property is completely in the road right of way. The town can't ask for a 20 ft easement as recommended by the PWC because the boundary of the property is fully within the road right of way on the sliver tail section. Town wanted to clarify, the 20 feet easement was only for the lower tail section and was not intended for the upper section of the property toward Black Mountain Road as 20 ft would be too close to the house. It was confirmed by the PWC that the 20ft easement request is only of the lower section.

Gardener Bullis Update: The "Monster" Tree has been removed. They are currently working on moving irrigation. Then will proceed building path. Lastly they will address enclosing the large pipes next to the path. (8A agenda item)

In Lieu Fee vs pathway study is still in progress. A draft was created but is not ready for review.

A historic pathway from Central and Buena Vista (Evan's Property) is not truly a pathway. It is a paved driveway outside of a pathway easement and was determined by staff to be private property. All signage in the area has been removed.

Properties:

7b 12791 West Sunset - An unofficial historic pathway exists halfway on this property and half on next door property. Currently, the home owner is submitting a project for a 499 square foot addition which does not require PWC review but would like to donate a 3ft easement for about 210ft from the mailbox to the fence. A previous major project plan was submitted back in 2009 during which the PWC had requested a pathway easement but the project was withdrawn. BM feels the home owner (Mr. Eaton) is gifting an easement and the home owner should not bear any expense to record this donation to the town. 4.1.6 of the town code allows for a pathway donation. AD mentioned that this pathway connection is quite an important route for evacuation safety and it is on the Master Path Plan. It was moved by BM that the PWC recommends the town accept a 3ft pathway easement from end of the fence to mailbox on West Sunset at no cost to the home owner. It was seconded by AD. The motion to accept the easement at no cost to the homeowner was approved unanimously. (AD, ND, BE, JN, AB, BM, VM, RM, MD, SW in favor)

7c Bob presented a proposal to create a native off road path connection from Robleda to La Paloma using the two currently held easements and an existing completed pathway segment. The section from La Paloma with stairs is already completed (seen in red on Bob's map). See Bob's presentation. The proposal is to study what is needed to create a native path along the currently held easements on two properties to connect to Robleda. Previously a pathway was pursued in this area at a cost of around \$600,000 using extensive retaining walls. Bob feels this can be greatly reduced by following a more native route. Bob suggests the committee recommend removal of the green line on Atherton Court on the approved MPP and the dotted line section in the "unresolved issues" on the 2016 Master Path Plan Update after this connection between La Paloma and Robleda is completed.

Gene Kita, the home owner at 13303 Wild Crest Lane (the property next to where native

path would connect to Robleda), is opposed to the proposal due to the privacy concerns. The easement is not on his property but along the southern border of his property on his neighbor's property. He also has concerns that the connection to Robleda is very steep and may change with time.

Lee family represented by Howard Lee -12933 Atherton Ct are opposed to proposal for privacy and security concerns. A pathway in this area has been discussed six or seven times over the 30 years in different configurations. Three of their bedrooms face the pathway. If a pathway is pursued, he would like the pathway to be as far from their house as possible, and as close to the creek as possible. He believes screening is required. He understood that the town holds the easement for this pathway when he purchased his property 30 years ago.

Vaz Babayan at 12940 Atherton Ct has an easement on the property, has concerns about privacy with his property and how his dogs would react to people on the path. There may be a need for fencing.

The home owner Jay Sutaria at 13581 Wild Crest Way is supportive of this pathway connection near Wild Crest Way. He would love to find a way to have this pathway connection completed.

It was moved by MD to proceed with Bob's six next steps (see presentation) to provide the information we need to determine whether an off road pathway from the La Paloma to Robleda across the two currently held easements on 12933 and 12940 Atherton Ct is feasible. BE seconded the motion. AD, ND, BE, JN, AB, VM, RM, MD in favor, BM and SW vote no due to the privacy concerns stated by the home owners present. The motion passed.

6. Presentations from the Floor

1. EG says Bassett Lane story poles are up and the pathway markings are no longer noticeable. She wanted to ensure that the pathway has been determined and recorded even though the markings are no longer visible. BE mentioned that he, Nick, Jeremy and the contractor clearly staked and taped the location which was later voted for at a previous PWC meeting. It was supposed to be recorded by the surveyors.
2. EG says Ann DeGheest, 12133 Foothill Lane, was in attendance but she had to leave. She was here regarding a connection from the end of Black Mountain to Elena. A key property on Elena Road has a new owner who may be supportive of this connection. She is hoping town or the PWC could reach out to the new owner to see if this connector would be possible. AD said she would reach out to Ann to discuss how to proceed.

7a. 27240 Natoma Road - Pathway is on the opposite side. ND moved that we recommend an in-lieu fee. BE seconded the motion. (AD, ND, BE, JN, AB, BM, VM, RM, MD, SW, unanimous in favor of in-leu fee).

Maintenance issue:

- ND mentioned on Black Mountain Rd from Ursula to Edgerton straw was placed in the wet season for erosion control but now in the dry season the straw is a slipping hazard on this steep path. Jeremy will look into it.

7e PWC membership size

In previous years, the Pathway Committee had 9 members and then expanded to 11 members. The PWC chair would like to discuss if not filling the two open spaces on the committee is preferred. The Charter says the PWC can have up to 11 members. AD commented both can work well. It was possibly ramped up to due the big MPP update in 2015-2016. ND suggest not filling the position and try it for a while. EG highly recommend not changing the charter.

There are a few options to consider.

1. Can ask Town Council to change charter to 9 members as maximum.
2. Can ask Town Council to not fill open positions for a specified period of time.
3. We can ask Town Council to fill the open positions.

RM as the outgoing PWC chair supports holding off on filling the positions. If projects expand or it is determined we need more committee members to complete our tasks, we to go back and ask council to consider filling the open slots. She also suggests having the Council to look for specific qualifications or skills that are needed. SW agrees it is best to not change the charter but diversity of opinions is important. She suggests trying it with 9 for a period of time like 6 months. ND suggest not putting a time limit on this decision.

It was moved by ND to request to not fill the open positions until further notice and keep the PWC at 9 members. The motion was seconded by MD. The motions was passed unanimously. (AD, ND, BE, JN, AB, BM, VM, RM, MD, SW, unanimous)

Review and Approval of Minutes from June 25th:

Clarify section about town council strongly objects to naming pathways. There was a misunderstanding that town council thought the PWC was persuing naming pathways. MD clarified that the PWC was not seeking naming pathways but trying to define clearly some guidelines around the naming of pathways. There were also some small typo corrections. RM moved to accept the minutes with the corrections suggested. MD seconded. AD and AB abstain. All others (ND, MD, BE, BM, RM, VM, JN, SW) approve the minutes as corrected.

Meeting Reports:

SC mentioned that the last VTA meeting was canceled.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Pathway naming and specifically how to handle the current request. AD suggests we put the year old request to review the proposal for naming a path in honor of their parents on the next agenda. RS suggests that the family may not want to pursue this naming request.

AD suggest the Magdalena to Fern Hill investigation be added to the next agenda.

Native Path design recommendations are ready for approval and will be presented and voted upon at the next PWC meeting.

Marketing:

Our Town article will come out shortly. SW thanked everyone for helping with comments and review.

Events:

Hoedown is coming up September 8th. SW, SC and maybe AB have volunteered to attend and have a PWC table.

Huge thank you to Rachelle Mirkin as this is her last PWC meeting.

BE is going away for 3 weeks starting Friday so he may be out of communication during that time.

Judy Nagy, PWC Secretary